

Unimas builds micro-hydro system for Kpg Pa'Ramapuh in Bario



DATO Gerawat (fourth left) being briefed by Prof Dato Kadim (second left) on the Micro Hydro system at Kampung Pa'Ramapuh in Bario.

KUCHING: The residents of Kampung Pa'Ramapuh A and B in Bario, Miri are now enjoying electricity, thanks to the micro-hydro project undertaken and completed by the Centre of Renewable Energy (CREN) of the Faculty of Engineering of the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

This project under the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES) was fully sponsored by the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA) and implemented by (CREN).

Mulu State Assemblyman Dato Gerawat Jala officiated at the launching and handing over of the project recently. Also present was Unimas Vice Chancellor Prof Dato' Mohamad Kadim Suaidi.

The suitable terrain topography, coupled with the continuous flow of river water throughout the year and less logging activities in upstream areas provide the potential for micro-hydro system be developed.

Based on these, researchers at CREN applied to KeTTHA to finance the project. Backed by Unimas 'Micro Hydro Community Based Framework' and the encouraging commitment of the villagers, CREN was given the responsibility for controlling and managing the project.

The main objectives of the project were to build and do research on micro-hydro infrastructure, generate and supply electricity using hydropower to Kampung Pa' Ramapuh.

The project was completed in September 2015 and has since been generating electricity for the village.

Kampung Pa' Ramapuh is located in the Kelabit Highlands where the main economic activity of the villagers is farming, especially in the cultivation of paddy, citrus fruits and pineapples.

Previously, the villagers depended on diesel generators as the source of electrical power for the running of daily and economic activities. This is because the village is not connected to the main power grid.

Power generation by diesel generator has weaknesses like being too noisy and producing carbon monoxide, causing much irritation to the villagers besides the villagers having to buy diesel to run the generator.

Meanwhile, CREN has been carrying out activities such as studying, researching, designing and developing model projects to enhance the socio-economy of villagers, especially those in the interior of Sarawak.



DATO Gerawat (fifth right) and Prof Dato' Kadim (fourth right) posing with the villagers during the launch and delivery of the Micro Hydro Project for Kampung Pa'Ramapuh A and B in Bario.